



June 2010

How to Read Livestock Feed Labels

Guaranteed Analysis

Crude Protein, minimum.....	20.0%
Lysine, minimum.....	1.2%
Crude Fat, minimum.....	4.0%
Crude Fiber, maximum.....	4.0%
Calcium, minimum.....	0.8%
Calcium, maximum.....	1.3%
Phosphorus, minimum.....	0.65%
Salt, minimum.....	0.35%
Salt, maximum.....	0.85%
Selenium, minimum.....	0.1 ppm
Zinc, minimum.....	150 ppm

In order to help choose between all the livestock feeds available today, the Colorado Feed Law (§§35-60 CRS) requires that certain information be present on the label of any feed distributed within the state. This helps ensure that when you buy animal feed, you are able to make comparisons between similar feeds and that you have the information needed to safely and effectively use the product as intended.

Product Name

The product name is the *first* part of the label that is noticed by the consumer. This states the name of the product and the brand it is marketed under. The name must be appropriate for the intended use of the feed and it must not be misleading in any way.

Medicated Feed/Drug Purpose Statement

Medicated feeds are required to include the word “medicated” directly following and below the product name in type size no smaller than one-half the type size of the product name. A drug purpose statement must also be included listing the intended purpose(s) of the added drug or drugs. This drug purpose statement may include specific conditions that qualify the drug claim(s). The label is also required to list the active drug ingredient(s) added and its concentration in the feed. It is important to only use medicated feeds for their intended purpose and at the usage label listed on the label. This will ensure that the medication is able to work as needed without having problems with residues in the tissues of food animals.

Purpose Statement

The purpose statement states the specific type of animal for which the feed is designed and any specific conditions that may apply. For example, “for meat goats on pasture” is a purpose statement. When this information is included in the product name this information, the purpose statement may be omitted.

Guaranteed Analysis

When developing a feeding plan for livestock, you have to know how much of the various nutrients the animal will receive from the feed. The guaranteed analysis lists the amounts of nutrients that are guaranteed to be present in the product on an “as is” basis. Requirements for this statement will vary according to the species for which the feed is intended. Colorado Dept. of Agriculture inspectors periodically test commercial feeds to make sure that you are receiving the nutrients you are paying for. If the sampled feed fails to meet this guarantee, the feed may be taken off the market until it can be corrected and a civil penalty may also be assessed in cases where the violation is egregious or there is a history of failures to meet guarantees.

Ingredients

Feed manufacturers are required to list the ingredients found in the feed on the label in order of predominance by weight. In order to ensure that feed companies use the same terminology, it is required that they use the feed terms defined in the Official Definitions of Feed Ingredients that appears in the 2007 Official Publication of the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) or by the common or usual name of the ingredient. In order to allow flexibility to deal with ingredient availability, some major ingredients are often listed on the label in collective terms such as plant protein products, animal protein products, grain products, forage products, roughage products, processed grain by-products, as well as other collective terms. The ingredient statement will also identify the sources of any supplemented vitamins, minerals and preservatives or additives. Every ingredient in the product must be accounted for. If you are feeding an animal that has special needs, it is important that you review this statement in order to identify any ingredients that may present problems.

Directions for Use

All feed products are required to list feeding directions that are adequate to allow anyone without any special knowledge or training to safely and effectively use the feed as it is intended.

Warning or Cautionary Statements

When necessary, a feed label must also include any applicable warnings or cautionary statements, either included as part of the feeding directions or listed separately. An example would be "Caution: contains added copper. Do not feed to sheep." Another caution statement is "Do not feed to cattle or other ruminants" which must appear on any feed or feed ingredient containing materials prohibited from use in ruminant feeds under the FDA's BSE rule (Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations 589.2001).

Statement of Responsibility

All feed distributed in Colorado is required to list the name and contact information for the guarantor of the feed. This may be the manufacturer or the person responsible for distributing the feed. This allows the purchaser to contact the responsible party if they have any questions or problems related to the feed.

Quantity Statement

All feed products must list, on the primary display panel, a net quantity statement so that you know exactly how much feed you are purchasing.

Following is a sample label that meets all the requirements:

Y BRAND FEED

Big Pig No. 20

Medicated

A complete medicated starter feed

for pigs weighing 11 to 44 pounds

For increased rate of gain and improved feed efficiency.

Active drug ingredient

Carbadox.....0.002% (20 grams / ton)

Guaranteed Analysis

Crude Protein, minimum.....20.0%

Lysine, minimum.....1.2%

Crude Fat, minimum.....4.0%

Crude Fiber, maximum.....4.0%

Calcium, minimum.....0.8%

Calcium, maximum.....1.3%

Phosphorus, minimum.....0.65%

Salt, minimum.....0.35%

Salt, maximum.....0.85%

Selenium, minimum.....0.1 ppm

Zinc, minimum.....150 ppm

INGREDIENT STATEMENT

Grain Products, Meat and Bone Meal, Processed Grain By-Products, Dried Whey, Calcium Lignin Sulfonate, Animal Fat, Vitamin A Supplement, D-Activated Animal Sterol (source of Vitamin D3), L-Lysine, Riboflavin Supplement, Choline Chloride, Biotin, Thiamine Mononitrate, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Vitamin E Supplement, Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex (source of Vitamin K Activity), Folic Acid, Ethoxyquin (a preservative), Ground Limestone, Dicalcium Phosphate, Salt, Copper Sulfate, Manganous Oxide, Zinc Oxide, Ferrous Sulfate, Cobalt Carbonate, Calcium Iodate, Sodium Selenite.

FEEDING DIRECTIONS:

Feed as the complete ration to pigs weighing 11 to 44 pounds.

WARNING: DO NOT FEED TO SWINE WITHIN 42 DAYS OF SLAUGHTER.

CAUTION: NOT FOR USE IN PREGNANT SWINE OR SWINE INTENDED FOR BREEDING PURPOSES

CAUTION: DO NOT FEED TO CATTLE OR OTHER RUMINANTS.

Y BRAND FEEDS

BUFFALO CREEK, CO, 80425

NET WT 50 LB (22.67 kg)